

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am currently a subscriber to Direct TV and prefer the competition remain just that, the competition. We DO NOT need a monopoly situation created by this merger. I have read the company's proposed benefits to the customers in my state and do not feel there is adequate meat in the deal to allow the destruction of an open market.

I currently access the internet via dial up modem and access my local channels with an arial antenna. The antenna cost me all of \$60.00 and works quite well. There are no monthly fees. The dial up access connects me at anywhere from 28,000 bps to 49,000 bps which varies from time to time. I conduct much of my business over the internet and this has not hindered me in the least.

To recieve DBS local channels, very likely there will be a fee. If you truly look at all New Mexico households, I firmly believe you will find but a handful that cannot recieve good quality broadcast of the nearest local stations with a standard arial antennae. For FREE! The graphs would lead one to believe a large portion of New Mexico is without TV. Sure, and if you believe that, may I also inform you that you'll need a passport to visit us during the Balloon Fiesta.

The broadband internet access to those who choose to purchase a satellite dish for this purpose is already in place. I have chosen not to as the initial equipment runs \$500 to \$700 plus the monthly fee is approximately \$70.00. I am perfectly happy with my clunky old dial up (which is not really all that slow) and my \$21.95 per month unlimited access. I frequently email clients files that are at or about 1KB in size. I download programs, and I upload my files of that same 1KB in size to an offsite electronic storage facility. It works just fine, and I am in no way deprived of the vast world of internet knowledge out there as these folks would have you believe.

I do live in a more sparsely populated area south of Albuquerque which has one solitary cable company who's idea of customer service is 'You ain't got nobody else to go to Little Lady. Whaddya want from us?' I really don't see these folks stepping into the cable internet scene in the near future. With that attitude, I highly doubt they'd have my business if they did.

I strongly believe this is a ploy merely to gain more of the cable market, than it is a means for New Mexicans and residents of other states to have greater access to local channels and broadband internet. I see nowhere in the proposed benefits documents that monthly TV rates will be regulated, nor that broadband internet equipment and monthly rates would reduce in current cost. Further, the lack of competition would merely create a company with the similar attitude of our local cable guys. (perhaps a bit more polished, but the same bottom line nevertheless)

..A National Rate..is one of their benefits mentioned. Read this to mean, we set the rate, if you want it, you must pay. There will be no competition to drive prices to a competitive level or encourage one to enhance their service over another.

I urge the FCC to closely scrutinize this proposed merger and remember what the majority of our national economy is based on - open market competition. Please do not allow this vehemouth merger to put the clench on Americans who want to enjoy satellite TV.

Sincerely,

Caterina Platt
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